(b) to state why the Government were not pleased to deal with the pieceworkers in the Government Orders referred to above?

A.—(a) A copy of G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921,[a] is laid on the table. As regards G.O. No. 823, Finance, dated 3rd October 1922, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No 439.

(b) The rates of remuneration of pieceworkers were revised in 1920. There was therefore no necessity to deal with their case in connexion with the revision of the scales of pay of the salaried establishments in 1922.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :— "The answer to clause (b) is that Government see no necessity to deal with the case of pieceworkers. Seeing that these pieceworkers are, in fact, really men who do work in the technical establishment and as they have got their increase only so long ago as 1920, will the Government now at least, after the lapse of 8 years, see that they are given some increase?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— The point, Sir, as mentioned by the hon. Member, was considered in 1920."

Pieceworkers in the Government Press.

* 442 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of permanent and temporary pieceworkers in the Government Press on 1st July 1928;

(b) the sanctioned permanent strength of the pieceworkers;

(c) the number of vacancies in that establishment on 1st July 1928;

(d) the number of temporary pieceworkers of five years' standing and more on 1st July 1928;

(e) whether Government have passed orders in G.O. No. 569, Finance, dated 6th August 1919, that temporary pieceworkers will be promoted within a period of twelve months to the vacancies in the pensionable piece-work establishment whenever they arise;

(f) if so, why they are not made permanent even after 5, 6, or 7 years;

(g) how many have earned Rs. 30 or more as estimated in G.O. No. 388, Finance, dated 22nd April 1920, and how many less during the month of June 1928 and why;

(h) whether the Superintendent is summarily dispensing with the services of the temporary pieceworkers of three or four years' standing and more as he pleases on plea of reduction and whether he is empowered to do so without appeal to Government;

(i) if so, how many were thus dispensed with in each of the months from January 1926 to July 1928, with their respective years of temporary service and why; and

(j) whether it is the duty of the Superintendent to arrange for a good supply of stock work to be sent in, which the press can go on with whenever work is slack so that their employment may be fairly continuous; and if so, what steps have been taken by the Superintendent to ensure adequate supply of work?

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 243–244 infra.

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A.—(*a*) Two hundred and forty-six permanent and 253 temporary piece-work compositors.

(*b*) Three hundred and twenty-five.

(*c*) Seventy-nine.

(*d*) One hundred and fifty-one.

(*e*) Yes, provided that their conduct has been good and attendance satisfactory and that they have earned within a period of twelve months an average wage of Rs. 12 in three typical months, one slack, one busy and one normal.

(*f*) The Government propose to examine this matter.

(*g*) Three hundred and two men have earned more than Rs. 30 per mensem and 192 men earned less than Rs. 30 per mensem in June 1928. The reasons were the inefficiency of the men or insufficient work to keep them fully employed.

(*h*) The Superintendent is empowered to employ temporary piece-workers according to the requirements from time to time. There is no provision for appeal to Government against his decision.

(*i*) The number of temporary men dispensed with is as follows :—

Year and months.	Number of men.
1926—	
January	7
February	8
March	7
April	8
May	4
June	7
July	5
August	4
September	3
October	6
November	7
December	4
1927—	
January	65
February	23
March	1
April	2
May	2
June	4
July	2
August	1
October	3
November	3
December	1
1928—	
January	2
February	1
March	13
April	16
May	2
June	3
July	11

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Of the above, 79 men have put in a service of 2 years and less, 80 men over 2 years and up to 3 years, 58 over 3 years and up to 4 years, 3 over 4 years and up to 5 years, 4 over 5 years and up to 6 years and 1 over 6 years.

The services of 95 men were dispensed with owing to slackness of work and the others for irregular attendance, incompetency and misconduct.

(*j*) There is no rule laying down that the Superintendent should arrange for a good supply of stock work for the slack season.

Transfer of pieceworkers of the High Court section in the Government Press to the Current section.

* 443 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the pieceworkers of the High Court section of the Press are transferred to the Current sections and made permanent as vacancies occur;

(*b*) if so, how many were so transferred during the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 and why;

(*c*) how many were made permanent during these years and what is their respective temporary service in the Current sections;

(*d*) whether the sanction of permanent strength of the piecework establishment was fixed at 325 in 1910 when there were 451 pieceworkers only; and

(*e*) whether there was a proposal to increase the number in the year 1919 and to put some more into the fixed establishment?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) The questions do not arise.

(*d*) The strength of the permanent piecework establishment was fixed at 325 in 1910, when the total number employed was 577.

(*e*) Yes.

Distribution of work among pieceworkers in the Government Press.

* 444 Q.—Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Superintendent, Government Press, has issued orders to the effect that the permanent pieceworkers should be provided with work before the temporary pieceworkers and whether the latter therefore hang on the mercy of the foreman for work; if so under whose authority this system is in vogue, how long and why;

(*b*) whether the pieceworkers in their memorials to the Government, dated 11th December 1919, asked for a turn distribution book being maintained in each composing section to ensure fair distribution of work and whether their request was complied with;

(*c*) whether the Superintendent, Mr. Gilbert, had reported that every precaution was being taken to avoid partiality in the distribution of work and that it was always open to the pieceworkers to report any unfair distribution;